



Wedn  
DECEMBER

★ FREE

A Chicago Trib  
publication

Subscription  
boxes: gifts that  
keep on giving

*page 3*

Former addicts share  
intimate looks at their  
struggles in memoirs **6**

Former Bear Israel  
Idonije's comic book  
series levels up **9**

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HARP

JOANNA NEWSOM TALKS HER NEW ALBUM'S ACCESSIBILITY.  
FOURTH-GRADE READING AND HATING BANANAS **12-13**



BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



**HOLIDAY DATE NIGHT**  
**Eduardo's Enoteca** 1212 N. Dearborn St. 312-337-4490  
 Watch "Christmas in Connecticut" while having dinner, a holiday-themed cocktail, a bottle of wine and popcorn. Diners also receive cookies to take home. 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$55. Reservations required.

**FREE KATHY WAKILE BOOK SIGNING**  
**Mariano's**  
 40 S. Halsted St. 312-243-7657  
 The star of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" demonstrates how to make mini-cannoli kits and signs copies of her cookbook, "Indulge: Delicious Little Desserts That Keep Life Real Sweet." You can also sample from her line of desserts sold at the grocery store. 6-8 p.m.



**DO 'THE HEIR APPARENT'**  
**Chicago Shakespeare Theater** 800 E. Grand Ave. 312-595-5600  
 See David Ives' comedy about a man scheming to keep both his inheritance and his fiancée. 1 and 7:30 p.m. \$58-\$68. Tickets: [chicagoshakes.com](http://chicagoshakes.com)

**3-DAY FORECAST**



**WEDNESDAY**  
**53 39**  
 More rain



**THURSDAY**  
**38 31**  
 Temps drop



**FRIDAY**  
**30 24**  
 Back to reality

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Have some Bad Santa punch, made with rum or apple vodka, apple cider, ginger beer and lime juice, paired with short rib, sliders and mushroom flatbread while listening to music from Acoustic Generation. For \$25 you can also get two gifts wrapped. 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**A NEIGHBORLY QUEST**  
**Gino's Brewing Co. and Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery**  
 500 N. LaSalle St. 312-988-4200 and 1 W. Grand Ave. 312-755-9339  
 The two breweries collaborated to produce two takes on a German-style bock. Order the house draft for \$3-\$4 and receive a souvenir glass and a sample of the other brewery's beer. 2-10 p.m. at Gino's and 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. at Rock Bottom. No cover.



**HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY**

Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (923 W. Weed St. 312-462-1053) offers \$4 margaritas, \$5 Goose Island Green Line pale ale and six wings for \$6 at the bar from 4-7 p.m.



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# BOX IT UP

8 subscription boxes that make great last-minute gifts

By Annie Cericone | REDEYE

No one knows more about holiday shopping procrastination than I do, but if you haven't started yet, it's time. And if you're like me and have to travel home for the holidays, the idea of lugging a bunch of gifts with you can feel a bit daunting. So why not give the gift of a subscription box? You won't have to stuff anything in your luggage, and your friends and family will still be receiving gifts as a reminder of how awesome you are months down the road. Here are eight ideas for everyone on your list.

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## FOR THE WORLD TRAVELER

### Try the World

**Price:** \$39 for one box, \$105 for three boxes or \$198 for six boxes

This box is perfect for giftees who love traveling or yearn to see more of the world. Every other month, a box full of treats themed by country and curated by chefs and experts will arrive at their doorstep. [trytheworld.com](http://trytheworld.com)

## FOR THE VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN

### Vegan Cuts

**Price:** \$19.95 per month or \$59 for three months, \$115 for six months or \$215 for 12 months

This service offers snack and beauty boxes for your animal-loving friends. Vegan treats and products aren't always easy to come by, but this package full of curated goodies makes it easy to discover new favorites. [vegancuts.com](http://vegancuts.com)



## FOR THE FOODIE

### Taste Trunk

**Price:** \$117 per month

With four themed subscriptions—barbecue, healthy chef, sweet or gourmet—there's certainly something to please every foodie in your life. Plus, there are even more customizable options if you want to mix up what box your giftee will receive. [tastetrunk.com](http://tastetrunk.com)



## FOR JUST ABOUT ANYONE

### Foot Cardigan

**Price:** \$9 per month

If you're still at a loss and nothing on the list fits, give the gift of socks. It's fun and simple and everybody needs 'em. Who wouldn't want a pair of wacky socks to show up at their doorstep every month? For an extra \$2, you can add horrible gift wrapping, too. [footcardigan.com](http://footcardigan.com)

## FOR THE CRAFT BEER JUNKIE

### Craft Beer Club

**Price:** \$39-\$74 per month

For the person on your list who can't stop logging beers in Untappd, this subscription will give them access to breweries from all over the country, like Red Brick Brewing Co. in Atlanta and Lakefront Brewery in Milwaukee. Choose between two boxes: 12 beers per month (\$39) or 24 beers per month (\$74). [craftbeerclub.com](http://craftbeerclub.com)

## FOR THE GREEN-LIVING FANATIC

### Homegrown Collective

**Price:** \$39 per month, \$105 for three months, \$234 for six months or \$429 for 12 months

This box is perfect for the friend who's always working on a new DIY project. Each month, they'll receive a package full of the tools and ingredients they'll need to make lip balm, lotion bars, elixirs and more. [homegrowncollective.com](http://homegrowncollective.com)

## FOR THE COFFEE ADDICT

### Craft Coffee

**Price:** \$29.99 per month, \$74.97 for three months, \$149.94 for six months or \$299.88 for 12 months

Everyone knows a few caffeine fiends, and this subscription box will expand their horizons in ways they didn't know possible. Each month, they'll receive 4 ounces of coffee from three different roasters, resulting in about 42 cups of coffee. That should be enough to get them started. [craftcoffee.com](http://craftcoffee.com)

## FOR THE DAPPER DUDE

### Gentleman's Box

**Price:** \$75 for three months, \$150 for six months or \$275 for 12 months

Stumped on what to get the bro in your life? This box arrives each month with four to six products ranging from accessories (think socks and sunglasses) to grooming supplies and the latest GQ issue as a bonus. [gentlemansbox.com](http://gentlemansbox.com)



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## Personal finance tips for Millennials, by a Millennial



YOUNG MONEY

**Carolyn  
Bigda**

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Back when she was in college, Sophia Bera was studying theater and planning to make a career as an actor. Then, at age 21, she bought a house, and her life changed.

"All my friends started coming to me with money questions, and I was fascinated by it," she said. So

Bera became a certified financial planner and, in 2013, launched Gen Y Planning, which provides financial advice to the 20- and 30-somethings who make up Gen Y, also known as the Millennial generation, an age group that often gets overlooked in the financial planning industry.

Now Bera, 31, has put some of that advice into a book, "What You Should Have Learned about Money, but Never Did," published earlier this year. It's only available electronically (\$4.99 on Kindle), and in a recent interview, she talked about some of the major points she hopes to make to her peers.

**Q: What is a common mistake that young people make when doing financial planning?**

**A:** A lot of people focus on what's going on in the economy, but what you should look at is what's going on in your personal economy. Take mortgage rates. They are very low today, so I've had clients ask if they should buy a house. But there are other things to consider: Do you have a down payment? How much are you paying in rent? My parents bought a house in 1986, when mortgage rates were around 10 percent. But at the time they were living in an apartment with rats, and they had a 2-year-old child. They had to move. It was a good time in their personal economy to make that decision.

**Q: Financial planning can seem overwhelming. You suggest tackling the to-do list a little at a time.**

**A:** When you try to do too much, it's unsus-

tainable long-term. I'd rather have people make a few small changes that you can stick with. If you increase your 401(k) contribution by just 1 percent, you probably won't miss the money in your paycheck. But that 1 percent is going to have a big impact on your financial future, especially when we're talking about 30 or 40 years of compound growth. If you increase the contribution by 1 percent again in six months, and do that again and again, pretty soon you're maxing out your 401(k).

**Q: How should young people balance saving with paying off debt, such as student loans?**

**A:** I'd rather have people save one month of their net (or take-home) salary before they begin to aggressively pay down debt. Ideally, you want to have three to six months of net pay saved. But if you have at least one month and you're aggressively paying down your student loans, for example, and something happens—there's a medical expense or a car repair—you don't have to put it on a credit card.

**Q: You say saving is critical, but so is making more money.**

**A:** I don't know why this is a radical idea, but for some reason in the personal finance world it's been all about slashing your expenses and saving every penny you can. That's the only way to reach your financial goals faster or get out of debt. However, in reality, my clients who find a lot of financial success are the ones who are really motivated about increasing their income. A lot of times, there's only so many things you can cut from your budget, and even if you're able to squeeze out another \$100 or \$200 per month, it can still take you a while to pay off debt or build up savings. But if you do something on the side and you're able to make another \$500 per month, all of a sudden, you have a ton more money that can go directly toward your financial priorities. You reach your goals faster, and how motivating is that?

CAROLYN BIGDA WRITES THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S WEEKLY "GETTING STARTED" COLUMN, COVERING PERSONAL FINANCE TOPICS FOR 20-SOMETHINGS. SHE ALSO IS A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR AT KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE.



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### CONTACT US

**Newsroom:** 312-222-4970  
[redeye@redeyechicago.com](mailto:redeye@redeyechicago.com)

**Advertising:** 312-527-8077  
[advertisingredeye@tribune.com](mailto:advertisingredeye@tribune.com)

**Classifieds:** 312-222-2222

**General Manager:**  
Maggie Wartik, @mwartik

**Circulation:**  
[redservice@tribune.com](mailto:redservice@tribune.com)

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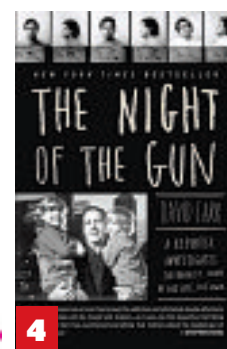
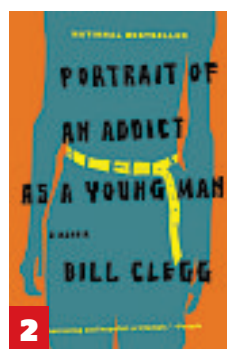
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## books



# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**ADDICTION**  
A YEARLONG  
EXPLORATION OF  
DEPENDENCY

/ADDICTION  
#ADDICTION2015

By **Elise De Los Santos** | REDEYE

From self-help guides to historical and medical publications, books have tackled addiction from every possible angle.

Memoirs, however, offer the most intimate look into the lives of those who have struggled with addiction.

For various reasons, these authors have chosen to share with readers the details of the most difficult times of their lives, allowing in-depth looks into the mental and physical tolls addiction took on them and those close to them, the ups and downs of recovery and relapsing, and the continuous effort to remain on the right track.

Though there is no shortage of memoirs out there exploring dependency, the following four books have struck a chord with readers, both addicts and non-addicts alike, over the years. [EKDELOSSANTOS@REDEYECCHICAGO.COM](mailto:EKDELOSSANTOS@REDEYECCHICAGO.COM) | [@ELISEKDELO](https://twitter.com/ELISEKDELO)

## 1. Blackout (2015)

by Sarah Hepola

Released earlier this year, this New York Times best-seller carries the striking subtitle “Remembering the Things I Drank to Forget” and explores how blackouts became the norm rather than the exception for Hepola, a writer. Her average night would consist of staying out and drinking all night long, then waking up the next morning with gaps in her memory and having to piece together what happened the night before. Though at first she viewed her drinking habits as part of the life of the modern woman, Hepola eventually realized she had a problem and turned her efforts toward sobriety.

## 2. Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man (2010)

by Bill Clegg

Many memoirs on addiction detail a struggle of dependency over an extended period of time. “The Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man” is more focused, mainly centered on a two-month crack cocaine and sex binge that Clegg, a New York literary agent, went on in 2005, nearly destroying his life and costing him his literary firm, his home and his partner. In 2012, he published another laser-focused account, titled “90 Days,” about trying to stay clean for that period of time after leaving rehab.

## 3. More, Now, Again: A Memoir of Addiction (2002)

by Elizabeth Wurtzel

Wurtzel is most famous for her 1994 book about depression, “Prozac Nation,” which turned her into a cultural symbol for what some see as a generation that was overdiagnosed and overmedicated. (The book was later adapted into a film of the same name starring Christina Ricci.) But in this follow-up memoir, she tells the story of how despite her previous success—and in many ways because of it—she became addicted to Ritalin and then cocaine.

## 4. The Night of the Gun (2008)

by David Carr

The late journalist David Carr turned his reporting skills onto himself as he investigated his addiction to crack cocaine. Instead of relying purely on his personal recollections, Carr approached his own story as a reporter, conducting interviews, researching records and fact-checking over three years. He pulls no punches when describing the type of person he was or the things he did as an addict, including beating women and being in the middle of a crack binge when his twin daughters were born.

YOU CAN FIND OUR COVERAGE OF ADDICTION ONLINE AND IN PRINT EVERY WEDNESDAY THIS YEAR. IF YOU WANT US TO CONSIDER SHARING YOUR STORIES, SEND THEM TO [REDEYECCHICAGO.COM](mailto:REDEYECCHICAGO.COM) WITH “ADDICTION” IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

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LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE PHOTO

FORMER BEAR IDONIJE'S COMIC  
UNVEILS NEW MOTION BOOK POWERS

# ATHLETES REBORN

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Athletes are used to saving the day.

Whether it's sacking the quarterback, hitting a last-second shot or producing a clutch performance, they're already at hero status for the most part.

Former Bears lineman Israel Idonije took that concept to the next level in 2013 when he launched "The Protectors," a comic book series featuring fictional athletes from a variety of sports who discover they have superpowers. And as of this week, fans can immerse themselves into the world he and his team at Athlitacomics, the Chicago-based company he founded, have created.

"There's this whole universe that's been created from this idea, and I'm just excited to hopefully not only tell the story but ultimately inspire people," said Idonije, who played for the Bears from 2004-12.

On Wednesday, "The Protectors" will debut as motion books on Apple TV and the Made-fire app. The first season of the comic, which

encompasses issues 1 through 5, will be rolled out as 15 weekly episodes from Wednesday through March 23.

Idonije chatted with RedEye about what the comic series represents, his favorite villains and a strange, bacon-centric idea his former teammate proposed.

For the full interview, go to [redeyechicago.com](http://redeyechicago.com).

**Comics often are a reflection of the real world. Are there any stories you plan to adapt in "The Protectors"?**

I don't know if there's any direct stories we're looking to kind of retell in our story. I think it's more about life principles. In the story, all these athletes, what makes them such great athletes is truly a by-product of a greater gift that they were all given, which was ultimately given to them to save the human race from this evil force that controls our world today through politics, media and religion. In our real world, I believe at the end of the

day not just athletes but all of us as human beings, we all have amazing gifts and we all have amazing abilities and we all must make a choice day in and day out. What will I do with the gift I've been given?

**One of the athlete heroes in the series, Isaac Chike, clearly seems like you in comic-book form. Will anyone else from your football career make an appearance?**

In "The Protectors," we will have a few cameos of friends of mine. There's a scene in Chicago that's at an event and some of the guys that we're fortunate are in the comic.

**Any plans to make "The Protectors" into a cartoon or movie?**

We're mostly looking to let the opportunities happen organically. We have been approached by a number of opportunities that are interested in this as a movie. We're not there yet.

**MWAHAHAHAHA!**

We asked former Bear and comics aficionado Israel Idonije to give us his top three villains.

**MAGNETO**

"He isn't a villain in his mind. [He believes] his cause is just. I think his powers are absolutely amazing."

**THE JOKER**

"He's the most diabolical, just purely evil."

**JUGGERNAUT**

"I read so much about him. He's a villain I liked [growing up]."

**Have any friends suggested storylines to you?**

The funniest one is former Bear Anthony Adams. He wanted me to make a character and do a whole comic series around him called Bacon Blaze. When there's trouble in Chicago and in the world, he changes into this character, Bacon Blaze, and his power is he shoots like a bacon laser at the opponent and turns them into bacon and he eats them. [Laughs.]

**Can the Bears win a Super Bowl with Jay Cutler?**

I do think they can win with Jay. He has the ability and he has the talent to win a lot of football games or to be a part of the reason that the Bears win a lot of football games. I'm a Jay Cutler guy. At the end of the day the defense hasn't been amazing [in 2015]. You get through this season, regroup and next year you've got to be prepared to put a better product on the field in all three phases.

CHRIS SOSA IS REDEYE'S SPORTS EDITOR.

CHSOSA@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM | @REDEYESPORTSCHI



## sports

## A? NO.

Today's challenge: Panelists were not allowed to use the letter "A." They hate us now.



**Clark Jones**  
@theclarkjones  
Stand-up comic



**Michelle Lopez**  
@michellelopez  
Mash designer/  
digital editor



**Katie Gibson**  
@Atgibbles  
WGN producer



**Soxman**  
@thesoxman72  
Caped Sox  
crusader



**Andy Frye**  
@mysports  
complex  
RedEye  
contributor

|   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | What do Pau Gasol and his brother Marc really talk about after playing against each other? | One likes Spike Lee's recent movies, the other prefers good things. | Whose turn it is to text their mom with the score.       | Retirement.   | Only those with brothers know. Sorry.  | Leo Messi, on the soccer pitch.                                     |
| 2 | Jordan Spieth is to "Happy Gilmore" as ...   | ... ellipses be in these questions.                                 | ... Robbie Gould is to missing FGs.                      | ... No. 88 is to the best hockey movie ever.  | ... the Cubs link is to me: opposites. | ... Bobby Hull is to Reg Dunlop.                                    |
| 3 | How does one break into Joel Quenneville's circle of trust, like Trevor van Riemsdyk has?  | Not by over-clipping his eyebrows, trust me on this.                | By buying Q the Gillette ProGlide Styler.                | By forcing people to converse without using the letter "A." OOPS.   | Don't be the Focker.                   | Work ethic.   |
| 4 | Who should be former Bear Israel Idonije's next Chicago-inspired comic book hero?          | The Corruptor.  | Red Line Dude. Rides the line protecting me from elbows. | E. Lloyd Du Brul (three cheers for @gibby79).   | Hint: I'm looking in the mirror.       | Theo Epstein, of course.  |
| 5 | It's end-of-the-year-list time. Make one up for sports and put someone atop it.            | The "We're just no longer into you" merit goes to Derrick Rose.     | Top Rookie of 2015: Kris B. from the Cubs.               | Best show of love to admirers: Newton from NFC South's best. He gives pigskins to kids who might be field-side post-TD. | Most Full of Bull: Derrick Rose.       | Sports nut most in need of new outfits: This guy to the left of me. |

## Let the Force guide you in the playoffs, fantasy football owners



**Soxman**  
@redeyesports@  
redyechicago.com  
@thesoxman72

There's been an awakening. Have you felt it? It is all around you.

You need only walk into a store, surf the 'Net or turn on the TV and you are instantly reminded that one of the greatest franchises of all time is again dominating.

No, I'm not talking about the New England Patriots (more on that later). Unless you've been staying in a galaxy far, far away, you know I'm referring to the latest installment of the "Star Wars" franchise.

"Star Wars" is a very appropriate reference for the state of the fantasy football landscape the last couple of weeks as owners in the playoffs try to establish a winning franchise in the ilk of the aforementioned film. Let the Force be your guide!

### The Force awakens

For most of the season, owners who used a first-round pick on Eddie Lacy were ready to feed him to Jabba the Hutt's pet rancor.



Isaiah Crowell (far left)  
GETTY IMAGES

Then last week Lacy was to faithful fantasy owners who started him (like me) as Han Solo was to Luke Skywalker as he tried to destroy the Death Star: a savior. Calling his benching in Week 13 a wakeup call, Lacy's Week 14 numbers (124 yards, TD) could be new hope for owners on a championship

quest bigger than destroying a giant battle station.

guy in a black mask who breathes heavily and a hooded dude who shoots lightning from his fingers. However, owners know this season the true force in fantasy has been tight end Rob Gronkowski. His return from a knee injury in Week 14 (87 receiving yards, TD) left his owners with a more important question: Who is the master Kylo Ren is answering to?

### Listen to Yoda

Yoda once said "Do or do not, there is no try." A Jedi knows the Force gives you the power to see the future (as long as it's not clouded by the dark side). So, my young padawans, use your senses to determine if Cleveland running back Isaiah Crowell's 145 rushing yards and a touchdown last week make him a must-grab off the waiver wire or the reincarnation Jar Jar Binks (someone your franchise would be better without).

Just remember, taking chances is what defeated the Empire. Don't be afraid to take risks. Fear, after all, is the path to the dark side. Just ask a Skywalker. May the force be with you!

### The dark side

Yes, New England coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady may have a better master-apprentice relationship than a certain

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## music

## Joanna Newsom is composed on record and messy in reality

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Countless write-ups have described “Divers” as Joanna Newsom’s most “accessible” album, a trend that left the California-bred singer/songwriter/harpist scratching her head during an early December phone interview.

“I guess I’ve been surprised to hear it called ‘accessible’ insofar as I’ve been surprised to hear my previous records called ‘inaccessible’ in the past,” said Newsom, 33, who, in addition to her thriving music career, has recently landed acting roles on screens both large (Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Inherent Vice”) and small (“Portlandia”)—though she’s yet to act alongside husband and “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” star Andy Samberg. “I’m not insulted when people call it accessible. I mean, that’s good. I’d like all of them to be accessible.”

While Newsom doesn’t dial down the ambition on the strange, beautiful album (her fourth), a handful of songs are more straightforward than past Faberge-ornate efforts, such as “Same Old Man,” which finds the musician flirting with airy mountain folk. A similar directness bleeds into the lyrics, and throughout Newsom wrestles with concepts like mortality, love and the unrelenting march of time. She also flashes a wicked sense of humor at times: “The longer you live,” she sings on “Leaving the City,” “the higher the rent.”

**CONCERT**  
**Joanna Newsom**

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**So it’s not like you entered into the writing process for “Divers” with the idea you wanted to make something more universal, I take it?**

Definitely not. And there are lots of elements on this record I’ve used on albums in the past. I think maybe one reason people keep calling it more accessible is it has shorter songs, which my first album “The Milk-Eyed Mender” had, and not really any of the other ones since. That’s part of it, and that makes sense to me. When someone is listening to an album, he or she doesn’t necessarily want to listen to 17-minute-long songs.

**Did you do that purposefully? Was it in some way a reaction to “Have One on Me” [Newsom’s third album, from 2010, clocked in at more than two hours], which was a longer, more immersive experience?**

Right. No, I didn’t do it as a reaction to “Have One on Me,” but it certainly was





intentional. For me, I had a sense of what the structure and concept for this album were going to be pretty early on. I knew the songs would be interconnected narratively and harmonically, and I knew they were going to be very densely layered in terms of instrumentation and arrangement. Because I was visualizing this sort of vertical density—layers upon layers upon layers that give the songs a lot of height—I think I wanted them to be shorter horizontally. They felt more concentrated to me. More condensed.

**The songs are so beautifully arranged. Are you as composed in your day-to-day, or is your car an absolute mess?**

[Laughs.] It's funny you say that because maybe 20 minutes ago I was attempting to clean my house before I go on tour. I'm very untidy in my life, and I'm always working on it. It makes me super bummed out that I'm 33 years old and I can't keep my desk clean. I think my level of organization and focus in making music has always been the exception to the rule throughout my life. It's been the one place with no disorder, and everything else is constantly low-level falling apart. No emergencies or anything, but there's constant mail-losing and that kind of thing.

**A number of the new press photos include a parrot in the shot. What word or phrase would it undoubtedly pick up if it actually lived in your home?**

[Laughs.] Uhh ... wow. What's the word or phrase I say the most? Good question. I stub my toe a lot, so profanities abound in my house. I'm very clumsy; pick any bad word and I probably shout it twice a day.

**"Sapokanikan" includes a reference to "Ozymandias." Did you discover that work via "Breaking Bad," like I'm guessing a number of people did?**

[Laughs.] Absolutely not. "Ozymandias" is complete canon! It's what, fourth grade you have to read "Ozymandias"?

**Maybe your fourth grade class was more advanced than most.**

[Laughs.] I mean, I love "Breaking Bad," but part of what makes me so interested in that poem is that it is so canonical and it is so integrated in our understanding of English literature, and yet most of us don't know there was a second "Ozymandias" poem. Horace Smith and [Percy] Shelley were basically friends that had a bet, or competition, as far as who could write the best "Ozymandias" poem. And the victor, Shelley, created a work that was entered into the canon that let's say *many* fourth graders have to read—not all—whereas Horace Smith was basically forgotten.

**I know people say "Don't read the comments," but have you seen the top**



**YouTube comment on the video for that song?**

No, I have not.

**It's, "I didn't understand a word, but I [bleep]ing loved it."**

[Laughs.] That's great. That's the spirit. People have been asking me a lot lately about the research element as a listener, and whether I feel people need to do this deep analysis in order to get the songs.

**Right. Like the songs should come with**

**footnotes.**

Yeah. And the idea of what it even means to "get" a song is a bit nebulous anyway. But I like the spirit of someone just liking it because he or she just likes it. That's my goal: to make something that has some goodness in it that isn't bound up by understanding the references or the double-meanings, or tracing the rhyme patterns. There has to be something else ... or it becomes this purely cerebral thing, and that's not what I'm interested in at all. I want to make a beautiful song that has emotional truths and moves a person sort

of fundamentally.

**I'm curious about your reaction to the Welsh band Joanna Gruesome co-opting your name.**

[Laughs.] You know, I'm reserving opinion on that because I don't know. It doesn't seem like it's good, but I'm just going to assume it's a loving tribute, which is much more fun for me to believe.

**It sounds like it would be the Garbage Pail Kids version of your name.**

Yeah! That's awesome. It's the Garbage Pail version, which is kind of rad actually. But I mean, I think they're probably not fans. Or maybe they are. But probably not.

**Have you been banned from playing in Ecuador yet?**

Banned from playing in Ecuador?

**They're the world's top exporter of bananas, and it's pretty clear where you come down on that subject. [In an interview Newsom called bananas a "non-food" and "like dog crap."]**

[Laughs.] Oh man. Not as of yet, but I may have to swallow my deeply held principles and write a formal apology to the ambassador of Ecuador at some point. But I don't know. I'm wary to go any place that is so full of bananas. It's like going into the lion's den.

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.

@ANDYDOWNING33





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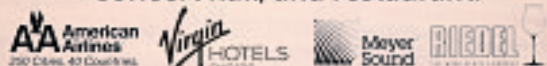
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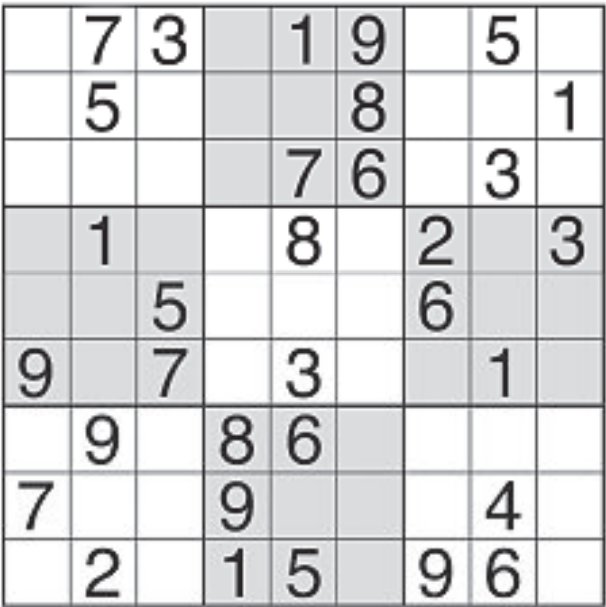
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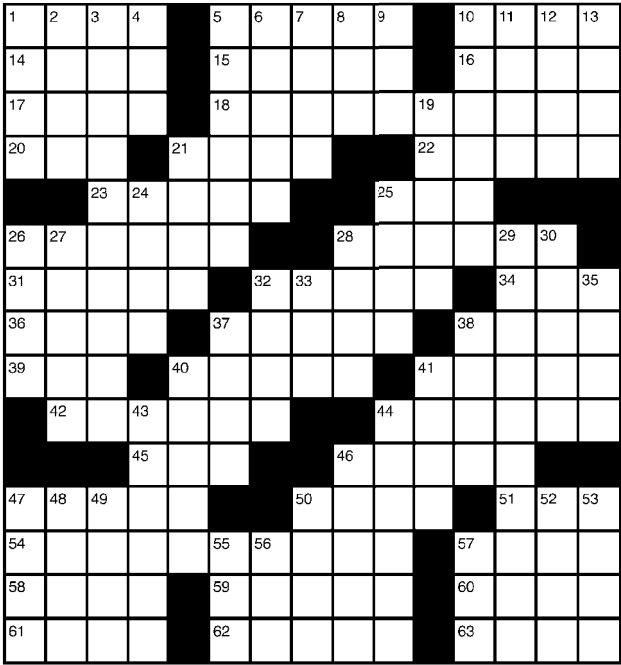


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- 1 milk; nonfat beverage
- 5 ill-gotten gain
- 10 Kindergarten's recitation
- 14 Game similar to lotto
- 15 Normal
- 16 Cowboy's shoe
- 17 Take \_ account; consider
- 18 Irritating
- 20 Fraternity letter
- 21 Meanie
- 22 Snake's poison
- 23 Excavator's chambers
- 25 Chicken's mom
- 26 Hits hard
- 28 June and July
- 31 Usually dry streambeds
- 32 Twitter post
- 34 \_ of a sudden; without warning
- 36 Arkin or Thicke
- 37 Squeeze
- 38 Soft cheese
- 39 Badminton court divider
- 40 Molar or canine
- 41 Papers to be filled out
- 42 Whispered confidence
- 44 Lays to rest
- 45 Sweltering
- 46 Actress Vera
- 47 Ropers' event
- 50 Soap brand
- 51 Naughty
- 54 Diplomas
- 57 Sled race
- 58 Competes
- 59 \_ of cake; easy task
- 60 Wrought \_ fence
- 61 Vatican leader
- 62 Inserted
- 63 Breakfast order

DOWN

- 1 Pass over
- 2 Mattel's boy dolls
- 3 Make fearful
- 4 Cow comment
- 5 Sudden forward movements
- 6 Consumers
- 7 \_ as a button
- 8 Long-tailed rodent



- 9 Building wing
- 10 Not here
- 11 Godsend
- 12 Singer Perry \_
- 13 Flower stalk
- 19 Happening
- 21 Singles
- 24 Rub \_; gloat
- 25 Garden tools
- 26 Waterbird
- 27 Boys and men
- 28 Fit together, as gear teeth
- 29 Capital of Pennsylvania
- 30 Secretion left on a snail path
- 32 Horse's gait
- 33 Moist
- 35 Not as much
- 37 Wordsworth or Longfellow
- 38 Long-winded speaker, often
- 40 Scouting group
- 41 Jam-packed
- 43 Swiss or Edam
- 44 Prejudiced
- 46 Chop finely
- 47 Invitation letters
- 48 Cincinnati, \_
- 49 Profound
- 50 Perished
- 52 Very excited
- 53 Comfy rooms
- 55 Group bath
- 56 Child
- 57 Commit perjury



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- » Hypersonic speed refers to speeds of Mach 5 or greater—that is, at least five times the speed of sound.
- » Knitting has been shown to provide health benefits similar to those of meditative therapy.
- » Testosterone decreases fear of punishment and increases sensitivity to reward.



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Wine Tasting: 7 - 10 pm  
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Tipsy Tuesdays - All Drafts \$4

Wednesday - Live Entertainment  
(Jazz/Blues)

Thursday - Buy One, Get One!  
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Sunday Funday - \$5 Beverage List

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react presents

# REACTION

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

2015

DEC 30 WEDNESDAY

DEC 31 THURSDAY

**deadmau5**

CHVRCHES | RUN THE JEWELS

ROBIN SCHULZ | BONOBO (DJ SET)

CHERUB | JAMIE JONES

THUNDERCAT | JOYWAVE

PROBCAUSETTT TREZZ

MORE ARTISTS TBA

**SKRILLEX**

CHANCE THE RAPPER

GET REAL | PURITY RING

CASHMERE CAT | THE FLOOZIES

BADBADNOTGOOD | MIJA

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MORE ARTISTS TBA

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AND MUCH MORE!

PARTY STARTS AT 6PM

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HQ CARD  
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# red hot

**THE QUOTE**  
**“I HAD  
 THAT BEARD  
 FOR A YEAR  
 AND A HALF.  
 IT BECOMES  
 LIKE A SPOUSE.  
 YOU SLEEP  
 WITH IT.”**

— Leonardo DiCaprio,  
 to Variety, about the beard  
 he grew while filming “The Revenant.”

Beard

## The 2016 presidential campaign is headed to Showtime

Showtime has greenlit a documentary series on the 2016 presidential campaign, according to [avclub.com](http://avclub.com). The documentary will follow several stories and key characters from the campaigns. The series will be called “The Circus” because let’s be honest, that’s basically what it is at this point. The show is expected to premiere in January.

## The word of the year is ...

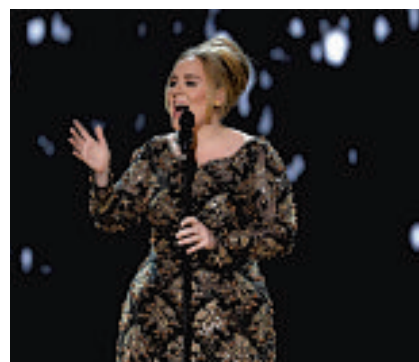
“-ism.” For [bleep]’s sake, Merriam-Webster. We get it. The word of the year is usually a word that receives a lot of lookups, but uhhh, that’s not a [bleeping word, you guys. Welp, at least Merriam-Webster is better than Oxford Dictionaries, which [bleeping named an emoji their word of the year. What a time to be alive.



AP PHOTO

## Madonna isn’t a ‘diva bitch’

Madonna angered her fans on Thursday when her concert in England got off to a late start. According to [eonline.com](http://eonline.com), Madonna thanked her booing fans for waiting, then said, “I don’t like to be late, by the way, and all you bitches who keep complaining about it can shut the [bleep] up. I’m not back there eating chocolates and filing my nails and getting my extensions done.” She explained that there had been technical difficulties before adding, “No selfish diva bitch reason.” Wowzas.



## THE DIGIT

# 11.2M

That’s how many of you bozos watched NBC’s “Adele: Live in New York City” on Monday night. According to [tvline.com](http://tvline.com), that makes it the network’s most-watched concert special since “Cher: Farewell Tour” in April 2003. Tell us, you guys, did you cry the entire time or what?

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# Bulls vs Spizzlies



## Tonight 6:30pm

**GROOVY HALFTIME PERFORMANCE BY THE VILLAGE PEOPLE!**